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1996/03/13

LOCATOR= TEXT ON-LINE

ERRORS= n/a

CONCEPTS= n/a

TAGS= PREL. MOPS. PHUM. PINR. TW. CH. AS

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PTQ5860

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/IR Date: 10 Dec 97
☐ RELEASE ☐ DECLASSIFY
☒ EXCISE ☒ DECLASSIFY EO Citations
☐ DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions B1 TS authority to
PA Exemptions ☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐ C Sec.
☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐ C

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 SMEC-00
OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 ANHR-01 SRPP-00 EB-01 FBIE-00
H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-01 ADS-00 M-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
P-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00
SA-01 PMB-00 PRM-10 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00 /042W
-----229833 131029Z /38

P 131026Z MAR 96
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0726
INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AIT TAIPEI 0145
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 007993

E.O. 12958: DECL: EXEMPTION 1.6X5, X6
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PHUM, PINR, TW, CH, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TAIWAN STRAIT
TENSIONS.

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REF: BEIJING 7674

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES R. SASSER. REASON: 1.5(B), (D).

2. SUMMARY: NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA RICK SMITH SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH STANDARD CHINESE RESPONSES WHEN HE CONVEYED AUSTRALIA'S CONCERN REGARDING CHINA'S MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT TO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI ZHAOXING ON MARCH 12. SMITH TOLD AMBASSADOR SASSER THAT [

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[SMITH NOTED THAT HIS DEMARCHE HAD BEEN HIS FIRST ACT ON BEHALF OF THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HE OPINED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD [

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] END SUMMARY.

3. NEWLY ARRIVED AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR RICK SMITH PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR SASSER ON MARCH 13. SMITH NOTED WRYLY THAT HE HAD ARRIVED IN HIS POST AT A CHALLENGING TIME. HE OBSERVED THAT, IN ADDITION TO TAIWAN STRAIT TENSIONS, HE HAD PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON THE DAY AFTER THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORATE HAD CHOSEN TO OUST THE LABOUR PARTY.

4. AMBASSADOR SMITH STATED THAT HIS FIRST ACT ON BEHALF
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OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TO PRESENT A DEMARCHE TO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI ZHAOXING ON MARCH 12 EXPRESSING

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AUSTRALIA'S CONCERN ABOUT CHINESE MILITARY EXERCISES IN
THE TAIWAN STRAIT. [

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5. AMBASSADOR SMITH SAID THAT VFM LI HAD RESPONDED TO
THE DEMARCHE IN STANDARD TERMS, DESCRIBING CHINA'S POLICY
TOWARD TAIWAN AS AN INTERNAL CHINESE AFFAIR AND CITING
PRIOR PROVOCATION FROM TAIWAN. LI REFUSED TO BE DRAWN
OUT WHEN SMITH HAD FOLLOWED UP THE DEMARCHE BY REMARKING
THAT CHINA'S ACTIONS MIGHT BE REGARDED AS
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, IN THAT THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BOLSTERED
BOTH SUPPORT IN TAIWAN FOR LEE TENG-HUI AND INTERNATIONAL
ATTENTION TO, AND CONCERN ABOUT, THE POSITION AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE ON TAIWAN.

6. SMITH OPINED THAT [

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[THE MAINLAND, SMITH SAID, SEEMED TO
FEEL THAT ITS DISPLAYS OF MILITARY CAPABILITY HAD HAD A
SALUTARY EFFECT ON TAIWAN, EVEN IF "NON-CHINESE" READ THE
IMPACT DIFFERENTLY. HE REMARKED [

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7. AMBASSADOR SMITH FORECAST BASIC CONTINUITY IN
SINO-AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

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8. SMITH SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH
STATE COUNCIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE DIRECTOR LIU HUAQIU
NEXT WEEK, AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES.
SMITH NOTED THAT HE HAD HAD A FAIR AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE
WORKING WITH LIU IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. []

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← SASSER

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